MARVEL

ALG. NO. 87

MYSTERY COMICS

10¢

AIN'T IT COMICAL, GOLDIE--"KILLER MARRIES STAR WITNESS"--HA HA!

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE'S DOIN' THIS BECAUSE A WIFE CAN'T TESTIFY AGAINST HER HUSBAND, I *STILL* DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE LOOKS AT HER!

I--
I--
EH--

I DO!

AND DO *YOU*, YOUNG WOMAN, TAKE THIS MAN--?

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

I'VE *GOT* TO *STOP* HER BEFORE SHE SAYS "I DO"!

C'MON, JUDGE... *HURRY DIS,* OR MY TRIGGER FINGER MIGHT GET NOIVOUS!

THE HUMAN TORCH

R-513

A WAR HERO IS CLAIMED BY THE GALLOWS FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT! HERE IS A DARING CHALLENGE FOR THE **HUMAN TORCH** AND **TORO**, AS THE FLAMING TEAM SEEKS TO STOP THE DIABOLICAL PLOT OF THE

"MASTER OF MURDER!"

IT'S LATE AFTERNOON, AND TORCH AND TORO ARE HOME LISTENING TO A NEWS BULLETIN...

TOM ABBOT, WAR HERO, HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR THE *STRANGLE MURDER* OF BERT NEAVER, ALSO EMPLOYED AS RESEARCH ENGINEER AT ADEX OIL COMPANY!

TOM ABBOT!

GOSH! WE MET TOM ON A BOND TOUR DURING THE WAR!

LET'S GO DOWN TO HOMICIDE, TORO, AND GET THE *DETAILS!*

SHORTLY AFTER... NEAVER'S BODY WAS FOUND EARLY THIS MORNING IN HIS APARTMENT! A MAID CALLED US! A CORONER FIXED THE STRANGLING TIME FROM 8 TO 10 LAST NIGHT!

A CLOTH BUTTON WAS CLUTCHED IN NEAVER'S HAND! WE TRACED IT BY ITS SPECIAL WEAVE TO ABBOT! IT *WAS* MISSING FROM HIS SUIT COAT! THE PICTURE'S OBVIOUS! NEAVER STRUGGLED AS HE WAS BEING CHOKED!

HE GRABBED AT ABBOT, AND TORE OFF THE BUTTON!

BUT WHAT ABOUT A *MOTIVE*, CHIEF?

MOTIVE? *THERE* SHE IS! MISS NANCY DRAKE!

NEAVER AND ABBOT WERE RIVALS FOR MISS DRAKE! THE TWO MEN HAD A BITTER QUARREL OVER HER!

IT'S MY FAULT! I ONLY WENT OUT WITH BERT TO MAKE TOM JEALOUS!

BUT TOM *WOULDN'T* KILL! IT MUST BE A FRAME-UP!

WHAT ABOUT ABBOT'S ALIBI, CHIEF?

HE SAYS HE WAS WALKING IN MONTROSE PARK BETWEEN 8 AND 10 LAST NIGHT. THAT WOULD PUT HIM TWO HOURS AWAY FROM NEAVER'S PLACE AND *IN THE CLEAR!*

TORCH AND TORO, CAN'T *YOU* HELP?

CHIEF, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO TOM!

O.K., BUT I'LL *EAT MY HAT* IF HE'S *INNOCENT!*

AT TOM'S CELL...

TORCH! *I'M INNOCENT!* I WAS WALKING IN THE PARK LAST NIGHT!

I WAS FRAMED, I *WAS*

THINK BACK, TOM!

WASN'T THERE SOMEONE WHO *SAW* YOU THERE? SOMEONE YOU *SPOKE* TO?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO... *WAIT!* THIS MAY HELP!

AN OLD MAN WITH SHAGGY WHITE HAIR, CARRYING A THICK WALKING STICK... I ASKED HIM FOR A MATCH! HE SAID HE SPENDS *HOURS* IN THE PARK! IF YOU COULD FIND HIM...

WE WILL!

SHORT SECONDS LATER, THE PAIR ROCKETS OUT...

BOYS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I CAN FOLLOW IN MY CAR!

WE'RE HEADED FOR MONTROSE PARK!

SOON... TORCH! THAT LOOKS LIKE OUR MAN!

I WONDER! WE'LL GO DOWN AND QUESTION HIM!

DO YOU REMEMBER A YOUNG FELLOW, TALL, WELL-BUILT, NEATLY DRESSED, ASKING YOU FOR A MATCH LAST NIGHT?

NOW LET ME... WHY *YESSIREE!* I *REMEMBER* HIM!

COULD YOU RECOGNIZE HIM IF YOU SAW HIM AGAIN?

YES! WE WERE STANDING UNDER AN ARC LIGHT NEAR THE CLOCK TOWER! IT WAS JUST 8:30!

SUDDENLY!

I'D RECOGNIZE HIS FACE ANY... UGH!

BANG! BANG!

IN SWIFT SECONDS, THE DYNAMIC DUO FLAMES AFTER A FLEEING FIGURE!

THERE THEY GO!

AND HERE'S HIS STOPPER!

AHHHHHH!

TORCH! WHAT HAPPENED?

THEN!

ONE STEP CLOSER TO ME OR MY FRIEND, TORCH, AND THE GIRL GETS PLUGGED!

TO BE **SURE** YOU STAY PUT, HERE'S A BIN FOR YOUR BRAIN! WE'LL TAKE THE DAME, OXXIE, JUST IN CASE!

WASTE

THROBBING MOMENTS OF BLACKOUT FOR THE DUO! THEN, RECOVERY...

WHAT A **BAD** BREAK! AND POOR NANCY!

A TYPICAL KILLER TRICK, TO HOLD A **HOSTAGE** AS AN ESCAPE HATCH!

ANYWAY, THE OLD FELLOW'S MURDER **PROVES** THAT TOM'S AN **INNOCENT** PARTY TO ALL THIS! WE'LL GET HOMICIDE DOWN HERE!

BUT...

A MURDER AND THE GIRL KIDNAPPED EH? WELL, WHERE'S THE BODY?

JUMPING JUNIPERS! IT'S GONE!

YOU MEAN IT ***NEVER*** WAS HERE! I SEE IT **ALL**, YOU'RE **SO** ANXIOUS TO GET ABBOT RELEASED, YOU MADE UP THIS WHOLE STORY! BAH! YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME!

NOW, WE HAVE A ***DOUBLE*** JOB — TO FIND A KILLER AND FIND NANCY! THE BODY WAS RIGHT HERE... ***SAY! HERE'S SOMETHING!***

LOOKS LIKE OIL!

IT ***IS!*** SOMEONE WHO HELPED REMOVE THE BODY MUST HAVE HAD OIL ON HIS HANDS OR SHOES! NEAVER AND TOM WORKED FOR APEX OIL COMPANY! LET'S GO!

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY..

O.K., SHE'S CHAINED AND GAGGED PLENTY TIGHT! COME ON, OXXIE, LET'S LISTEN TO THE RADIO IN THE NEXT ROOM!

I'LL GIVE HER THIS MAG TO READ, TO HELP HER PASS THE TIME! **HA! HA!**

IF I COULD ONLY GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S A WINDOW! HMMM! THIS MAGAZINE MIGHT HELP ME!

SHORT MOMENTS LATER...

HERE'S APEX! WE'LL SPEAK TO SOME OF THE EMPLOYEES FIRST! MAYBE WE CAN LATCH ON TO A LEAD!

TOO BAD ABOUT POOR BERT...

OIL COMPANY

HE WAS A SMART INVENTOR AS WELL AS A RESEARCH ENGINEER!

YOU KNOW HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF A TERRIFIC INVENTION! HE SAID SO, DAY BEFORE HIS MURDER!

SOUNDS INTERESTING!

WHY, IT'S TORCH AND TORO!

WHAT KIND OF INVENTION DID BERT HAVE?

DON'T KNOW! BERT NEVER SPIELED TO ANYONE EXCEPT MR. HART, THE BOSS! ASK HIM!

SOON, IN THE OFFICE OF WALTER HART...

BERT WAS WORKING ON A MACHINE TO SPEED THE PROCESS OF OIL REFINING! HE DIDN'T DIVULGE THE DETAILS, BUT I DO KNOW THAT ED GRANGER OF THE GRANGER OIL COMPANY TRIED TO HIRE BOTH BERT AND TOM!

WOULD BERT'S INVENTION BE A REAL THREAT TO THE GRANGER INTERESTS?

YES, INDEED! GRANGER COULD HARDLY COMPETE WITH US!

THAT WOULD BE REASON ENOUGH FOR HIM TO WANT BERT OUT OF THE WAY!

BERT'S MURDER IS A GREAT LOSS TO US! HIS WORK WAS INCOMPLETE!

TORO AND I WILL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH A VISIT TO GRANGER!

SOON!

THE GRANGER COMPANY'S ABOUT FIVE BLOCKS AWAY... SAY, WHAT'S ALL THIS BARRAGE OF PAPER PLANES?

22ND ST.

IN ST.

MAY BE A SIGNAL FROM SOMEONE IN TROUBLE! IT CAME FROM THAT BROWNSTONE HOUSE! ***LET'S GO!***

MEANWHILE,

OH-OH!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

SHE'S MADE PAPER PLANES FROM THE MAGAZINE PAGES! SHE'S TRYIN' TO **SIGNAL** SOMEONE!

WE'LL ***KILL*** HER FOR THAT, ***NOW!***

A SPLIT SECOND LATER...

IT'S NANCY DRAKE!

YOU'RE GOING TO BURN FOR THIS, CHUMPS!

THEN, WITH SUDDEN SHOCK, MURDER STRIKES AGAIN!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

THE FIRE ESCAPE! QUICK, TORO!

AS THE DUO FLAMES TO THE FIRE ESCAPE, A CLOAKED FIGURE ESCAPES TO THE GROUND BELOW, AND...

WHEW! IT'S A GOOD THING WE LANDED ON THIS PILE OF SAND!

BUT THE KILLER HAS ESCAPED! LET'S GET BACK UPSTAIRS!

IN THE MURDER ROOM, ONE CRIMINAL IS STILL ALIVE, AND...

WHO DID THIS? WHO WERE YOU WORKING FOR?

MAN HIRED US! (GASP) ED-- GRANGER-- (GASP)

HE'S DEAD! BUT HE TOLD US WHAT WE WANTED TO KNOW!

AS SOON AS WE RELEASE NANCY, AND GET THE POLICE HERE, WE'LL CONTINUE OUR TRIP TO THE GRANGER OIL COMPANY!

SOON AFTER, IN GRANGER'S LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED OFFICE...

THAT'S NONSENSE, YOUR INSINUATING THAT I SHOT AND KILLED TWO MEN A HALF HOUR AGO! I'VE BEEN IN MY OFFICE THE PAST HOUR, AND I CAN PROVE IT!

E.P.G.

MISS SCOTT, WHERE HAVE I BEEN DURING THE PAST HOUR?

RIGHT HERE, MR. GRANGER. I WAS TAKING DICTATION FROM YOU UP TO 5 MINUTES AGO!

UNLESS MISS SCOTT WAS PAID OFF TO SAY SO!

E.P.G.

SHE *WASN'T!* GET AWAY FROM MY MAIL! AND GET OUT, YOU TWO!

DO YOU ALWAYS REFER TO YOURSELF AS E.P.?

E.P.G.

YES, I DO! NOW GET OUT OF HERE!

HOLD OFF, GRANGER! ARE YOU TRYING TO **STRANGLE** ME?

LIKE BERT NEAVER WAS STRANGLED! TORRID TAMALES, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING! IT CLEARS TOM COMPLETELY! TORO, WE'RE PAYING A *RETURN VISIT!*

SOON...

BACK ALREADY? WHAT NEWS? DID YOU GET GRANGER?

TORCH'S REPLY IS STARTLING AND SILENT!

(GULP) LET ME GO!

HAS TORCH LOST HIS MIND?

AND HART'S ANSWER IS ONE OF SELF-DEFENSE!

LET ME GO!

SURE! NOT THAT YOU'RE HURTING ME IN THE LEAST! BUT THIS TELLS ME SOMETHING ***VERY INTERESTING!*** WHY THIS STOMACH GRIP?

I WAS TAUGHT THAT IN A COURSE I TOOK IN THE ART OF SELF-DEFENSE! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR ATTACK ON **ME!**

JUMPING JUNIPERS, I GET IT NOW!

WHEN A PERSON IS BEIN' CHOKED, THE NATURAL MOVE IS TO GRAB HIS ASSAILANT'S **WRISTS!** BERT WOULD ***NEVER*** HAVE GRABBED TOM'S ***WAIST! SO HE COULDN'T HAVE PULLED OFF THAT MIDDLE BUTTON FROM TOM'S COAT!***

EXACTLY! BUT ***YOU,*** HART, THOUGHT THE "WAIST" APPROACH THE MOST LOGICAL! WHAT'S MORE...

IN CASE THE FRAME-UP OF TOM FELL THROUGH, YOU FIGURED GRANGER WOULD BE THE **NEXT** FALL GUY! BUT YOU SLIPPED UP THERE! YOU CALLED GRANGER "ED"! SO DID THE KILLER WHO HIRED TWO THUGS TO HELP HIM IN HIS DIRTY WORK! BUT GRANGER REFERS TO HIMSELF AS "E.P." ***YOU*** HIRED THOSE CRIMESTERS!

YOU'RE GUESSING, TORCH!

I'LL GUESS AGAIN! I THINK A **SEARCH** OF YOUR PRIVATE PAPERS WILL REVEAL YOUR *MURDER MOTIVE!*

YOU'RE SEARCHING **NOTHING!**

But!

IN A SPLIT SECOND...

YES! THE BLUEPRINTS ARE IN MY DESK! BERT QUARRELED WITH ME AND THREATENED TO HAND IT OVER TO GRANGER UNLESS I PAID HIM HALF A MILLION DOLLARS FOR IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO PAY **THAT**. BUT I **COULDN'T** LET GRANGER HAVE IT!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, HART! **TALK!** I FIGURE IT HAS TO DO WITH BERT'S INVENTION!

SO YOU LET BERT HAVE IT IN THE NECK!

Later...

LATER, AFTER HART TAKES YOUNG ABBOT'S PLACE IN JAIL...

AND TOM, DARLING, WE OWE IT ALL TO TORCH AND TORO!

THIS DESERVES A CELEBRATION! I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER!

THANKS, TOM! BUT WE **ALREADY** HAVE A DINNER ENGAGEMENT!

GO ON, CHIEF! YOU SAID YOU'D EAT YOUR HAT IF TOM WAS INNOCENT!

GLUB! GLUB!

WANT SOME GRAVY ON IT, CHIEF?

THE END

ADVERTISEMENT

Captain Tootsie TAMES A TORNADO

By C.C. BECK

CAPTAIN TOOTSIE AND THE SECRET LEGION VISIT AN ARMY AIRFIELD IN THE SOUTHWEST.

HOOTIN' ZOOTS! LOOK AT ALL THOSE SWELL NEW JET PLANES!

OBOY! THIS IS GREAT, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE!

THOSE ARE THE ARMY'S P-84 THUNDERJETS!

YES, BOYS, THIS GREAT FIGHTER PLANE HAS A SPEED OF MORE THAN 600 MILES AN HOUR! IT'LL FLY HIGHER THAN 40,000 FEET, AND HAS A RANGE OF 1,000 MILES. THE CABIN IS AIR CONDITIONED, AND ELECTRICALLY OPERATED TO PROVIDE AN EMERGENCY EXIT!

AN OFFICER EXPLAINS THE CRAFT.

HERE'S ONE COMING IN FOR A LANDING! WOW! WHAT SPEED!

CONTROL TOWER'S CALLING THEM ALL IN! WEATHER'S GETTING BAD!

THIS IS TORNADO COUNTRY, YOU KNOW! WE'VE HAD SEVERAL BAD TWISTERS ALREADY, AND BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS WE'RE DUE FOR ANOTHER ANY MINUTE!

HERE COMES A TWISTER NOW! SEE THAT FUNNEL HEADING RIGHT FOR TOWN?

QUICK! SOUND THE ALARM! CALL ALL PILOTS... I'VE AN IDEA!

GOSH!

HERE, MEN... WE'LL NEED LOTS OF ENERGY. HAVE SOME **TOOTSIE ROLLS** AND **TOOTSIE FUDGE**, THAT'LL DO THE TRICK!

YEH! TOOTSIE FUDGE GIVES QUICK ENERGY, TOO- JUST LIKE TOOTSIE ROLLS!

INTO YOUR PLANES, MEN! FOLLOW CAPTAIN TOOTSIE! HE'S GOING TO BREAK UP THAT TORNADO BY FLYING THROUGH IT!

LET'S GO!

NOW HIT THAT TWISTER, BOYS! ALL TOGETHER!

TAKING OFF IN TIGHT FORMATION, THE POWERFUL JET PLANES FLY TO PIT THEIR MIGHT AGAINST THE RAGING TORNADO!

WILL CAPTAIN TOOTSIE'S DARING PLAN WORK? CAN HE SAVE THE TOWNSPEOPLE FROM DEATH AND DESTRUCTION?

YEOW! LOOK AT THOSE PLANES!

BOARRRRRRR

WE DID IT! WE BROKE 'ER STEM CLEAN OFF!

POP!

THE TORNADO'S BROKEN UP! WE'RE SAVED!

HOORAY!

WOW! WHAT A THRILL! YOUR IDEA SAVED DOZENS OF LIVES AND HOMES! YOU'RE A HERO, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE!

GOSH! I'M ALL IN AFTER THAT!

ANOTHER ROUND OF **TOOTSIE FUDGE** WILL SPARK UP OUR ENERGY AGAIN, BOYS!

YOU SURE CAN'T BEAT TOOTSIE FUDGE!

HOOTIN' ZOOTS! THAT SWELL TOOTSIE FUDGE SURE SHOOTS JETS OF QUICK ENERGY TO YOUR MUSCLES. MAKES YOU WANT TO ZOOM LIKE A REGULAR THUNDERJET YOURSELF! TOOTSIE FUDGE IS SURE RICH 'N CREAMY- JUST GOSH-A-MIGHTY GOOD! COMES IN CHOCOLATE OR VANILLA FLAVORS. GET TOOTSIE FUDGE AT YOUR FAVORITE CANDY COUNTER TODAY!

SUB-MARINER

HIDDEN GOLD ON A LOST ISLAND! A TREASURE MAP! GREED, ENDING IN WANTON MURDER! SUB-MARINER AND NAMORA ARE LED TO A DEATH-STRUGGLE WITH THE NOTORIOUS PIRATE, "BLACK PATCH," AS THEY RACE THROUGH UNCHARTERED WATERS

TO "THE LOST ATOLL."

1997

In all the ports of the seven seas, you will find no more fearsome crew than the men who serve: BLACK PATCH!

CUT THE DECK, MATES! LOW CARD IS THE MAN WHO'LL GET THE MAP... AGREED?

AYE, BLACK PATCH!

THE JOB'S MINE!

SO BE IT! YOU'LL KEEP YOUR KNIFE CLOSE TO YOUR SHIRT, REDTOP! AND YOU'LL HOLD YOUR TEMPER SHORT!

IT'S NOT A SLIT THROAT I'M AFTER, BUT THE ***MAP TO LOST ATOLL!*** YOU HEAR ME, REDTOP!

AYE! BUT TAKE THAT ICE-PICK AWAY FROM MY THROAT!

IT'S NOT LIKELY I'D GO AGAINST YOUR ORDERS, BLACK PATCH! I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM AS DOES!

MIND IT WELL, AND YOU'LL LIVE LONGER! HERE'S THE ADDRESS! IT'S THE GREY GOAT TAVERN, AND BILLY GLOW IS THE MAN TO SEE!

AND THIS IS BILLY GLOW...

TELL US ABOUT THE LOST ATOLL AGAIN!

HA! HA! THERE'S NOT REALLY SUCH A PLACE, AND WE KNOW IT!

LAUGH IF IT PLEASES YOU! BUT THERE ***IS*** A LOST ATOLL! I'VE THE MAP THAT SHOWS WHERE TO FIND IT! AND THERE'S A MILLION IN GOLD COINS STORED THERE!

BUT YOU'VE SPENT ALL YOUR MONEY TRYING TO FIND IT! IF IT'S REALLY THERE, AND YOU HAVE THE MAP, WHY DID YOU FAIL?

THAT'S THE RIDDLE I ***CANNOT*** MAKE OUT!

ON YOUR WAY NOW, CHILDREN! SHAME ON YOU FOR MAKING FUN OF AN OLD MAN!

HA-HA-HA HA!

GREY GOAT TAVERN

BUT YOU *DO* ENCOURAGE THEM, GRANDFATHER! YOU AND YOUR TALL TALES ABOUT LOST TREASURE!

IT'S PLAIN TO SEE I'M IN THE WAY AROUND HERE! I'M GOING FOR A WALK TO THE CLIFF, AND CLEAR MY HEAD WITH THE FRESH AIR!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T MY OLD SHIPMATE—BILLY GLOW!

REDTOP!

WH-WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I'VE COME FOR THE MAP TO LOST ATOLL! I'LL BE HAVING IT TOO, BILLY! I'M A QUICK HAND WITH THE KNIFE!

YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN ME, REDTOP!

YOU BARNACLED OLD FOOL! I'LL KILL YOU!

AT THIS MOMENT, SUB-MARINER AND NAMORA ARE SWIMMING IN THE WATERS NEARBY...

NAMORA! LOOK!

IT'S A BATTLE TO THE DEATH! WE'D BETTER GET UP THERE!

AGHH!

HURRY, NAMORA!

WHE-EW! WE MADE IT!

THAT WAS QUITE A CLIMB!

THERE HE GOES!

BUT IT SEEMS WE'RE TOO LATE, ANYWAY!

IN A FEW FLEET SECONDS, THE TWO NIMBLE CRIME-FIGHTERS SCRAMBLE TO THE TOP OF THE CLIFF...

DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR HIM! I'LL GRAB THE OTHER ONE!

DON'T BE IN A RUSH! I CAN GUARANTEE YOU'RE *NOT* GOING ANYWHERE!

HERE'S MY FIST ON IT!

UGHHH!

TAKE IN YOUR TOPS'L, MATE! OLD REDTOP'S HANDLED YOUR LIKE BEFORE!

A QUICK SLASH OF THE KNIFE, AND YOU'LL BE FEEDING THE FISHES!

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU!

OOOF!

SUDDENLY!

THE GROUND GAVE WAY BENEATH HIM!

YAAAA!

PRINCE NAMOR! THE OLD MAN'S *DEAD!*

NOW'S MY CHANCE! I'LL SPLIT HIS SHOULDER BLADES!

HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE! WE COULDN'T SAVE HIM!

IF HE HAD LIVED, HE WOULD HAVE PAID THE PENALTY FOR MURDER! PERHAPS, IT'S JUST AS WELL!

THE OLD MAN DIED SHORTLY AFTER I REACHED HIM! BUT HE GAVE ME A MESSAGE FOR HIS GRANDDAUGHTER WHO'S STAYING AT THE GREY GOAT TAVERN!

*WHEN NEWS OF REDTOP'S DEATH REACHES **BLACK PATCH**, HIS ANGER IS HORRIBLE TO SEE!*

HE TOLD HER TO BUY A SCHOONER WITH THE MONEY FROM THE INSURANCE! AND TO LOOK FOR LOST TREASURE! ABOVE ALL, HE SAID TO BEWARE OF A MAN NAMED ***BLACK PATCH!***

MAY THE DOG'S BONES BLEACH IN THE SUN! I WARNED HIM NOT TO BE SO QUICK WITH HIS BLASTED KNIFE! NOW BILLY GLOW'S DEAD, AND WE STILL HAVEN'T GOT THE MAP!

BUT I'LL GET IT, OR MY NAME ISN'T ***BLACK PATCH!*** I NEVER WAS STOPPED BY MAN OR WOMAN, WIND OR WEATHER!

Y-Y-YESSIR!

BILLY GLOW SET HIS COURSE BY THAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF HIS! ***SHE'S*** THE ONE WHO'LL GET THE MAP NOW! I WON'T BE FAR AWAY WHEN SHE DECIDES TO USE IT!

LATER, ON A DOCK WHERE A SCHOONER WAITS TO PUT OUT TO SEA...

WE CAME TO WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL VOYAGE!

I'M JUST COMPLYING WITH GRANDFATHER'S LAST WISHES! I NEVER TOLD HIM I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIS STORY, AND I CAN'T BEGIN TO DOUBT HIM NOW!

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MISS! WE'RE READY TO SAIL WITH THE TIDE!

I WON'T BE LONG!

HE'S THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP! A VERY PLEASANT, OLD-TIME SEAMAN! HE WAS *SO* GRATEFUL FOR THE JOB!

HE'S AN OLD HAND AT SAILING SHIPS! HE EVEN HELPED TO ROUND UP A CREW FOR ME! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D HAVE DONE WITHOUT HIM!

GOOD-BYE... AND GOOD LUCK!

MOMENTS LATER...

LET'S GO, NAMORA!

WHAT'S THE HURRY?

YOU *SAW* THE CAPTAIN! HE WAS WEARING A BLACK PATCH OVER ONE EYE! AND HER GRANDFATHER WARNED AGAINST A MAN NAMED "BLACK PATCH!"

PLENTY OF OLD SAILORS HAVE ONLY ONE EYE! IF YOU ASK ME, WE'RE RIDING A LONG-SHOT THIS TIME! BUT I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU!

NIGHTFALL FINDS THE SCHOONER WELL UNDER WAY...

DID SHE SHOW YOU THE MAP, BLACK PATCH?

NOT YET! JUST TOLD ME TO KEEP SAILING SOUTH BY WEST!

BUT SHE'S BOUND TO SHOW ME THE MAP SOONER OR LATER! THEN WE'LL KNOW THE COURSE TO LOST ATOLL!

ARE YA SURE THERE'S TREASURE ON THE ATOLL?

AS SURE AS I AM OF MY OWN NAME! THE LAST OF THE CLIPPERS FOUNDERED IN A STORM NEAR THE ATOLL IN 1889...

"THE CAPTAIN PUT HIS CARGO OF GOLD COINS INTO ONE BOAT WITH THE FIRST MATE, AND THE PASSENGERS INTO ANOTHER...

"THE PASSENGER BOAT WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN, BUT THE FIRST MATE, BILLY GLOW, REACHED THE ATOLL WITH THE CARGO OF GOLD COINS — A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF TREASURE...

"A YEAR, HE LIVED ALONE THERE! THEN HE MANAGED TO BUILD A CRUDE SAIL BOAT AND ESCAPED, HAVING BURIED THE TREASURE ON THE ATOLL!"

BUT WHEN HE LED A SAILING EXPEDITION BACK, HE COULDN'T FIND THE PLACE AGAIN! THE OWNERS OF THE GOLD COLLECTED ON THEIR INSURANCE, AND FORGOT THE MATTER... BUT I DIDN'T!

HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT BILLY GLOW'S TREASURE?

I WAS WITH AN EXPEDITION THAT BILLY GLOW OUTFITTED WITH HIS OWN MONEY TO LOOK FOR THE ATOLL! HE NEVER LET US SEE THE MAP! AT THE TIME I THOUGHT NO SUCH ATOLL EXISTED...

...BUT I KNOW NOW I WAS WRONG! THAT TREASURE WILL FALL TO OLD ***BLACK PATCH*** – OR I'LL KNOW THE REASON WHY!

BLACK PATCH! THAT KILLER IS ONE OF THE CREW!

LATER...

YOU! BLACK PATCH!

SO YOU KNOW MY NAME, DO YOU? YOU'RE A CLEVER LASS!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE? LET ME SEE IT!

NO!

SENDING MESSAGES, EH? I OUGHT TO WRING YOUR PRETTY NECK FOR THAT!

OHHH!

SOON THE MESSAGE IS PICKED UP...

IT'S THE MAP TO LOST ATOLL! DOROTHY MUST HAVE TOSSED IT OVERBOARD!

DIDN'T SHE WRITE ANYTHING ON IT?

JUST THE SINGLE WORD, "HELP!" WE'D BETTER HURRY!

NOW, LASS, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAP? OR WILL YOU MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF MY NINE-TAILED CAT?

I-I'LL *NEVER* TELL YOU ANYTHING!

YOU HEARD WHAT THE LADY SAID!

UGHH!

UGHH!

DROP THE KNIFE! OR I'LL SEPARATE YOUR HEAD FROM THE REST OF YOUR BODY!

NAIL THEIR SKULLS TO THE MAST! CLOSE IN, MATES!

THEY'VE GOT US OUTNUMBERED, NAMORA! WE'LL GO DOWN FIGHTING!

AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS...

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO CROSS *BLACK PATCH!* I'LL POKE A HOLE THROUGH YOU WITH...

LAND AHOY!

BLESS MY BONES! IT'S LOST ATOLL!

SO *THAT'S* THE ANSWER! BILLY GLOW COULDN'T FIND HIS ATOLL AGAIN, BECAUSE IT *WASN'T* THERE!

LOWER AWAY A BOAT! I'M GOING ASHORE!

IT'S ONE OF THE SEA'S RAREST PHENOMENA! A VOLCANIC ATOLL! SOMETIMES, SUCH LAND MASSES SLIP BELOW SEA LEVEL, ONLY TO RISE AGAIN!

SOMEHOW, BLACK PATCH GUESSED THE ANSWER TO THE ATOLL'S DISAPPEARANCE!

WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE PRISONERS, BLACK PATCH?

SLICE THEIR THROATS, AND FEED 'EM TO THE SHARKS! DON'T BOTHER ME WITH CORPSES WHEN THERE'S TREASURE TO BE HAD!

NOW'S OUR CHANCE, NAMORA! HALF THE CREW'S BELOW DECK! WE CAN HANDLE THE REST!

NOW, IF THIS ONLY WORKS...

THEN!

LET'S GO!

A SHORT TIME LATER.!

SHIVER MY TIMBERS! THERE SHE LIES! A FORTUNE IN GOLD!

AYE! WE'LL ALL BE RICH!

I'M CLAIMING YOUR SHARES, MATES! ANY OBJECTIONS?

AOHHH!

AT LAST! THE TREASURE IS ALL MINE! I'M RICH AS CROESUS!

AT THAT MOMENT...

LOOK! IT'S BLACK PATCH... HE'S FOUND THE TREASURE! LET'S GET HIM!

RUMBLE

NO! WAIT, NAMORA! HEAR THAT RUMBLE? STAY BACK HERE!

IN LIGHTNING SECONDS, THE VOLCANIC ATOLL PLUNGES BACK INTO THE SEA!

WHA...? WHAT'S HAPPENING? NO, NO! I'LL DROWN!

A JUST FATE CLIMAXES THE BLOODY CAREER OF THE MURDEROUS PIRATE...

LATER..

THE TREASURE IS LOST FOREVER, BUT GRANDPA BILLY'S MURDER IS AVENGED!

YES, AVENGED BY BILLY GLOW'S BELOVED SEA! FATE CAUGHT UP WITH BLACK PATCH IN THE END!

THE END

STAMPED EVIDENCE

THE tall muscular man walked across the hotel room and set a deck of cards on a table. He looked at his squat fat companion and snapped, "We'll cut to see who bumps off the rookie."

The fat man nodded and cut the deck. He held up the cut half of the deck. The showing card was a Jack. The tall man cut. His cut was a King. The tall man's lips curled upward cruelly. He turned and looked at Benny Hamilton, a rookie cop, who was tightly bound to a chair. The tall man laughed sarcastically, "Looks as if I have the pleasure of knocking you off."

Benny looked right into the tall man's eyes. "Yeah, I guess you and the rest of the Devil Gang are pretty good at knocking off cops. You sure did a good job on Pop Johnson. Shot him in the back without giving him a chance."

The short fat man snorted, "Shooting was really too good for that snooper, Pop Johnson, but then the big boss did that job. He likes to do his work quickly and neatly."

So I was right, thought Benny. Pop Johnson, the oldest and most respected cop on the force, had over a period of years gathered enough clues so he was closing in on the Devil Gang. The terrifying Devil Gang, though, was so well organized they knew just when Pop had gotten too close to discovering their leader. Pop had been shot down in a dark alley. Benny had gotten to Pop just before he died. Pop had passed the clues on to Benny. The gang soon knew by Benny's sleuthing on his off hours that Pop had revealed to him his clues. Now it was Benny's turn to be rubbed out.

Benny strained at the ropes holding him. What a fool he was to let himself be caught. Now he would be killed. That certainly wouldn't help to capture the Devil Gang. Somehow he had to get away.

The tall man took out a knife and walked toward Benny. The fat man trained a gun on Benny. The tall man muttered, "I'm cutting you loose, but no funny stuff or you'll get it right here." He slashed at the rope. Benny stood up. "Now go out the door," ordered the tall man, "down the stairs and out the street door. Then get into the car parked at the curb. Remember, Buck and I will be right behind you with loaded guns in our pockets."

In less than a minute, Benny was seated in the rear seat of a black sedan. The fat man was in the driver's seat. The tall man kept a gun pointed at Benny's head. He slipped a set of handcuffs on Benny's wrists and handcuffs around his legs above the ankles. "Start up and let's get going, Buck," growled the tall man.

Buck had trouble getting the car away from the curb, for the streets were still covered with snow from a recent storm.

As they whizzed through the city, Benny's mind was working at top speed. He had to make a break soon. If they ever got him out in the country it was curtains sure.

Benny glanced at the tall man and saw the gun still pointing at him. Then Benny found his eyes kept focusing on the door handle. Benny suddenly got an idea. It was dark and foggy outside. Buck was having trouble controlling the car. The car skidded on the icy street and every time this happened, for a fraction of a second, the tall man's gun was jerked out of position.

They were on the outskirts of town when Benny got his chance. The car skidded suddenly. Benny swung his handcuffs down on the gun and kicked down on the door handle at the same

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1367 N. Sedgwick Chicago 10, Ill.

moment. The gun clattered to the floor. The door swung open. Benny pushed with his feet and lurched out the door. He skidded across the street on his back.

The big sedan stopped and turned around. The headlights picked out Benny lying on the street. Buck gunned the engine and the sedan roared toward Benny. Though dazed, Benny saw the car hurling toward him. Using every ounce of strength in his body, Benny rolled toward the side of the street. The sedan missed Benny by a scant inch and slid into a snowbank.

Windows of the tenements that lined the street began to open. Curious people peered down into the street.

"We've got to get out of here," yelled Buck to the tall man. Buck gunned the engine and the sedan sped away.

Benny shook his head to clear it. He yelled for help. A man came out of a tenement. Benny stopped his questions and asked the man if he had anything to cut the links of the handcuffs. Luckily the man's neighbor was a plumber. The man got a pipe cutter from the plumber and cut the handcuffs from Benny's wrists and legs.

The man had a flashlight. Benny took the flashlight and played it around the snowbank where the sedan had crashed. Benny saw something. He moved close to the snowbank and peered at it intensely. Then Benny smiled. He took out his notebook and jotted down something. The man scratched his head. Benny must be crazy.

Benny rushed to headquarters and told Detective Captain Harding his story. Benny handed the Captain his notebook with the mysterious notes he had jotted down. Captain Harding smiled and copied the notes. "Good work, Benny. I'll check on this right away and let you know in an hour."

An hour and fifteen minutes later, Benny and Captain Harding were walking up the steps to the city's Mayor's house. Benny was puzzled. What were they doing at the Mayor's house?

Mayor Duffing came to the door. "Good evening, Captain, what brings you here at this hour?"

The Captain was curt, "I'd like to take a look at your sister's car."

"My sister's car?" stammered the Mayor. "Why it's in the garage. She's sickly you know. She never uses it except in the summer."

"Fine," replied the Captain, "then I'm sure you won't mind if I look at it." The Mayor feebly tried to block the Captain, but he brushed past him.

"Oh, very well if you must see it. I'll show you to the garage," grumbled the Mayor.

Captain Harding, Benny and the Mayor went to the garage. Benny's heart leapt. There was the black sedan he'd been taken for a ride in. Snow clung to the fenders!

"If your sister only uses the car in the summer, Mayor, how come it is coated with snow?" asked the Captain.

The Mayor blubbered, "Why I don't know. Maybe she *did* use it. I'll go ask her."

"Never mind," snapped the Captain. "You know who used your sister's car." The Mayor saw the Captain's gun pointing at him. He rushed toward the Captain. Benny slid quickly in between them and caught the Mayor with an uppercut. The Mayor hit the floor.

"I've had my eye on you a long time, Mayor," drawled Captain Harding. "It seemed odd the Devil Gang should know so much about the Police Force's plans. Peculiar they should find out Pop Johnson was on their case, when only you, I and Pop knew. I was sure the leader must be an insider. Benny's evidence tonight clinched it."

"But how did Benny know it was my sister's car that took him for the ride with my henchmen?" cried the Mayor.

"Tell him, Benny," laughed the Captain.

"Well, Mayor," gloated Benny, "when your henchmen missed running over me they hit a snowbank. Right there, *imprinted in the snowbank* ever so nicely was the license number of the car. The license plate on the bumper stamped the evidence right in the snow. Of course, then all Captain Harding had to do was to check with the Motor Vehicle Commissioner to find the owner of the car."

The Mayor groaned. Captain Harding grinned at Benny. "Benny, maybe you'd better run for Mayor. It sure looks as if we're going to need a *new* one!"

THE END

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2101

THREE YEARS AGO, JOHNNY DRAGO WAS HEADLINE NEWS...

DAILY GRAPHIC

DRAGO ONLY LIVING LINK TO FAMOUS MISSING NECKLACE. SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS

TODAY JUDGE FELLOWS COMMITTED TO PRISON THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF BOOTS BORDEN, SLAIN BANDIT AS ACCESSORY IN THE THEFT OF NECKLACE VALUED AT $40,000. DRAGO FACES FIVE YEARS IN THE STATE PRISON!

TODAY, HOWEVER, JOHNNY DRAGO RATES ONLY *A FEW LINES ON PAGE 3!*

JOHNNY DRAGO OUT ON PAROLE

PAROLED AFTER SERVING THREE YEARS, THE SWISS MUSIC BOX EXPERT IS FREE TODAY...

GRAPHIC FEB 19

I ALWAYS FELT SORRY FOR JOHNNY, LOUISE! SURE, HE *DID* HARBOR BOOTS BORDEN... BUT ONLY BECAUSE BOOTS WAS HIS WIFE'S *BROTHER!*

I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN I HAD IT!

GRAPHIC

A SWISS *MUSIC BOX*, MARK! I BOUGHT IT FROM JOHNNY DRAGO THE DAY HE WAS ARRESTED!

WHAT A *WASTE* OF MONEY!

MEANWHILE, NEAR A 2ND AVENUE SHOP...

I AIN'T FOR 'WAITIN', SEE! *I'M* FOR MOVIN' IN RIGHT NOW!

SHADDUP! WE'RE WAITIN' FOR *NIGHT*, AND NO ARGUMENTS!

Music BOXES

YOU THINK JOHNNY'S CRAZY? NOPE, HE'S GONNA *WAIT* UNTIL NIGHT BEFORE HE PUTS HIS FINGER ON THE NECKLACE!

AND INSIDE THE SHOP, JOHNNY IS VISITED BY ONE JUDGE FELLOWS...

NOT *MANY* JUDGES WOULD HELP THE SAME PERSON THEY SENT TO JAIL!

I'M A COLLECTOR OF MUSIC BOXES MYSELF AND *I* KNOW A GOOD BUSINESS INVESTMENT WHEN *I* SEE IT... *YOU AND* I ARE *PARTNERS* IN THE PROFITS, JOHNNY!

BUT, REMEMBER, JOHNNY—I *AM* A JUDGE, EVEN IF I *AM* RETIRED! WHATEVER YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH BOOTS BORDEN IN THE PAST, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR *SLATE CLEAN* NOW!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *THAT*, SIR!

WHY, LOUISE GRANT—THE *LAST* CUSTOMER BEFORE I WENT AWAY! AND THE *FIRST* WHEN I GET BACK!

HELLO, JOHNNY... YES, THIS MUSIC BOX CAN USE SOME REPAIRS!

JUST WAIT'LL I GET MY TOOLS OUT, AND WE'LL SEE WHAT'S WRONG...AND THIS REPAIR JOB IS ON THE HOUSE!

GREAT LAD, THAT JOHNNY!

JOHNNY!

A TOMMY GUN!

IT'S NOT MINE...I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT IT THERE, JUDGE! YOU'VE BEEN WITH ME EVER SINCE I GOT OUT!

HMM...I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, SON!

JOHNNY IS EMBARRASSED ENOUGH WITHOUT HAVING LOUISE GRANT AROUND!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THE BLONDE PHANTOM CAN'T BE SUCH A NUISANCE, THOUGH! NOW THAT THE JUDGE IS LEAVING, I'LL TALK TO JOHNNY!

MUSIC BO

FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING, JOHNNY?

THE BLONDE PHANTOM! I... ER... JUST FOUND THIS IN WITH MY TOOLS, BUT IT WASN'T THERE THREE YEARS AGO!

THE CLASP OF THE VAN AVERY NECKLACE! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE AFTER SEEING THE REPRODUCTION DURING MY TRIAL! BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW IT GOT HERE!

AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE NECKLACE IS?

I BELIEVE YOU, JOHNNY! BUT THERE ARE PROBABLY A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DO THINK YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS!

THEN!

THE NECKLACE! IN MY—UH... SOMEBODY'S MUSIC BOX!

BOOTS MUST HAVE HIDDEN IT HERE AFTER HE CAME HERE TO HIDE! THEN MISS GRANT PICKED UP THIS BOX SHE'D BOUGHT EARLIER THAT DAY, THREE YEARS AGO!

SUDDENLY!

HIT THE FLOOR, JOHNNY!

RAT-A-TAT A-TAT A-TAT

IT'S TWO UNDERWORLD CHARACTERS, SAMMY FERGUSON AND HIS PAL BUGS... TOO LATE FOR ANYBODY'S HELP!

WE'VE GOT TO GET THE POLICE!

THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON ENOUGH! RIGHT NOW *YOU'RE* TAKING THIS NECKLACE AND STARTING DOWN THE BLOCK AS THOUGH YOU WERE LEAVING TOWN IN A HURRY! *MOVE!*

UH-HUH! JUST AS I THOUGHT... JOHNNY IS *BAITING* REALLY *BIG* GAME THIS TIME!

QUICK, JOHNNY! DROP THE NECKLACE!

JUDGE FELLOWS!

SURPRISED, JOHNNY? WELL, I MAY BE A *CROOK*, BUT IN A *BIG WAY*—AND A *SMOOTH* WAY!

BUT YOU OVER-PLAYED YOUR HAND *THIS* TIME, JUDGE!

THE BLONDE PHANTOM!

OOF!

AFTER THE POLICE TAKE OVER...

I'D BE A DEAD MAN NOW, IF IT WEREN'T FOR *YOU*, BLONDE PHANTOM!

WELL, ANYWAY, A VERY UNSCRUPULOUS JUDGE IS NOW THE *FORMER* LEADER OF THE SLICKEST CRIME SYNDICATE IN THE CITY'S HISTORY!

THE NEXT MORNING...

IT'S INCREDIBLE, LOUISE... THAT *MUSIC BOX* WITH THE *NECKLACE* BEING RIGHT *HERE* ALL THE TIME!

INCREDIBLE OR NOT, I'M GOING TO SPLIT MY $5,000 REWARD WITH THE BLONDE PHANTOM!

GRAPHIC

THE END

EXTRA!!! AMAZING U.S. OFFER

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STAMP NEWS

By KENT B. STILES

Use of postage stamps to commemorate events of historical significance and happenings in careers of past and living persons is more and more becoming popular with Governmental postal administrations. During 1947, for example, more than one-fourth of all stamps issued are commemoratives, released in more than seventy-countries; and indications are that the same pace will be maintained during 1948. Here are just a few samples of what collectors may expect this year in the way of commemoratives:

At Washington will be printed a "Four Chaplains Memorial" stamp honoring the four chaplains, each an Army First Lieutenant, who gave their lives when the transport Dorchester was torpedoed in the North Atlantic in February, 1943. They were George L. Fox, Methodist; Alexander Goode, Jewish; Clark V. Poling, Baptist; John P. Washington, Roman Catholic. They were last seen with arms locked, and praying, as the ship foundered. They had given their life jackets to soldiers. The stamp will be issued partly "in the interest of religious tolerance."

Great Britain will commemorate the silver wedding anniversary of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on April 26 with 2½-pence and 1 pound stamps. In May will appear 1p and 2½p to mark an anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands from German occupation during the war. In July there will be 2½p, 3p, 6p and 1-shilling items for the Olympic Games. Several other Governments are postally commemorating the sports contests.

Salvador and a few more countries promised special stamps on April 12, third anniversary of the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Canal Zone is issuing on April 17 a 10-cent stamp for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Canal Zone Biographical Area, on Barro Colorado Island in man-made Gatun Lake. The region is one where flora and fauna of a tropical forest are preserved and made accessible to scientists for study.

An April issue scheduled by Czechoslovakia comprises 1.50-korona, 2k and 3k stamps to mark the 600tb anniversary of the establishing of Charles University by Charles IV (1316-1378), in Prague.

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AMERICAS' STAMP SERVICE
Redlands, California
WRITE TODAY

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GLOBUS STAMP CO. 268 Fourth Ave., N.Y. 10, N.Y. Dept. 322

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Famous "Managua-Nicaragua" Diamond Shaped Stamp, gorgeous Ecuador showing Washington, American Eagle & U.S. Flag in NATURAL COLORS, also Fezzan "French Foreign Legion" stamp, first U.S. Commemorative, $100.00 UNUSED Shanghai, Trieste "U.S. Army", Corsica, Jungle, Desert, Antique Issue, others. *Everything Only 5c.* Approvals.
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to approval applicants. Contains stamps worth up to 15c. each!
LITTLETON STAMPCO, LITTLETON 25, N. H.

PATSY WALKER ON SALE NOW!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

WHEN A BOY WILL GIVE UP A CHANCE FOR THE ONE THING IN LIFE WHICH HE WANTS, OR WHEN A MAN WILL SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR ANOTHER, *THAT* IS TRUE NOBILITY! AND WHEN FATE STEPS INTO THIS TERROR-FILLED TALE OF TRAGEDY... YOU HAVE THE STORY OF...

"THE BOY WHO COULDN'T STUDY!"

TRAGEDY VISITS THE HOME OF AUDREY MILTON AND HER YOUNG BROTHER, JOEY...

IS IT SERIOUS, DOCTOR?

GOSH! POOR GRANNY!

HER HEART ACTION IS EXTREMELY WEAK!

HER CONDITION REQUIRES A SPECIALIST. I RECOMMEND YOU CALL DR. GIBSON. HIS FEE IS RATHER HIGH, BUT IT'S HER ONLY HOPE!

BUT...(SOB)... WE'RE SO POOR, DOCTOR!

THAT NIGHT... I'M GOING TO WORK FOR THE MONEY WE NEED... EVEN... EVEN IF IT MEANS QUITTING SCHOOL!

(SOB) YOU CAN'T MEAN *THAT*, JOEY!

ALL MY LIFE I'VE DREAMED OF BECOMING A DOCTOR SOME DAY, TO HELP BANISH MISERY AND PAIN AND MAYBE GIVE YOU AND GRANNY THE BETTER THINGS OF LIFE! BUT ***I CAN'T SACRIFICE POOR OLD GRANNY'S LIFE*** TO THAT AMBITION!

AND SO...

GET YOUR PAPERS! WHADDA YA READ? PAPER, MISTER?

YEAH, GIMME A HERALD!

HOURS LATER...

I COULDN'T SLEEP WORRYING ABOUT YOU BEING OUT SO LATE!

GOSH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT *ME*, SIS! I HAD A PRETTY GOOD NIGHT... MADE FOUR DOLLARS! HOW'S GRANNY?

JOEY, YOU ***CAN'T*** GO ON WORKING SO LATE! YOU'RE NEGLECTING YOUR LESSONS!

EVERYTHING'LL BE ALL RIGHT! IF GRANNY CAN ONLY HOLD ON TILL I EARN ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE SPECIALIST!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT THE LEE SCHOOL...

JOEY'S MIND SEEMS MILES AWAY!

HOPE I CAN SELL AN EXTRA 25 PAPERS TONIGHT...

ELEMENTARY CHEMISTRY

WILL JOSEPH MILTON PLEASE STAND AND TELL THE CLASS WHAT HE HAS LEARNED THIS AFTERNOON?

I-I'M SORRY, MR. ROGERS! I GUESS I WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE!

IN THAT CASE, YOU MAY STAY IN THIS AFTERNOON UNTIL YOU LEARN TO PAY MORE ATTENTION! THE REST OF THE CLASS IS DISMISSED!

I TOLD YOU TO *STAY*, JOSEPH!

I'M *NOT* GOING TO!

I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH JOEY?

I WISH I KNEW, BETSY! HE USED TO BE AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS UNTIL LATELY! HIS MARKS HAVE PROGRESSIVELY GROWN WORSE!

WAIT UNTIL I CORRECT THESE PAPERS AND WE'LL STROLL OVER TO JOEY'S HOUSE TOGETHER! PERHAPS WE MAY FIND THE ANSWER THERE!

LATER...

THERE'S A NECKLACE HANGING IN THE WINDOW OF THAT ANTIQUE SHOP! FIFTY BUCKS FOR YOU GUYS FOR BUSTIN' THE WINDOW AND GRABBIN' IT FOR ME!

IT'S AS GOOD AS YOURS!

ANTIQUES

CURIO

CRASH!

CHEEZ IT! DA COP!

I GOT IT!

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GO...

GIT OUTA THE WAY, CHUMP!

OOF!

THOSE GOONS DROPPED THIS NECKLACE! IT CAN'T BE WORTH MUCH! LOOKS LIKE GLASS! MAYBE GRANNY'LL LIKE IT! I'LL SURPRISE HER!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? I HEARD A CRASH!

NOTHING AT ALL, OFFICER! MERELY AN ACCIDENT! THEY WILL HAPPEN YOU KNOW, HA-HA!

ANTIQUES

O.K. THEN, BUT GET THAT GLASS SWEPT UP BEFORE SOMEONE GETS CUT ON IT! *HEY, JOEY!* WAIT A *MINUTE*, I'LL WALK YE HOME!

CURIOS ANTIQUES

RIGHT AWAY, OFFICER CORKY!

I JUST SAW A KID WITH THE NECKLACE! TAIL HIM AND BRING *HIM AND* THE *NECKLACE* BACK HERE! I'LL MAKE HIM TELL ME WHO'S BEHIND THIS DOUBLE-CROSS!

A SHORT WHILE LATER...

AS SOON AS THAT COP BLOWS, WE'LL GO IN AFTER THE KID!

YEAH, WE GOTTA KEEP THE LAW OUTA THIS DEAL!

AND INSIDE...

DO YOU LIKE THEM, GRANNY?

THEY'RE LOVELY, JOEY! YOU'LL BE SPOILING YOUR OLD GRANNY IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL!

WHA...? WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT? GET OUT!

DON'T PLAY CUTE, PUNK! *YOU* KNOW WHAT WE WANT!

DON'T TRY SQUAWKIN', BABY!

OOOH!

LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU DIRTY DOG!

I'LL SHOW YOU!

OUCH!

QUIT SQUIRMIN'!

GRAB THE KID AND THE NECKLACE AND LET'S GET GOING! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE DAME WITH US TOO! SHE KNOWS TOO MUCH!

IF ONLY OFFICER CORKY WOULD PASS BY... I'LL LEAVE A TRAIL FOR HIM JUST IN CASE!

WE WON'T HAFTA WORRY ABOUT THE OLD DAME! C'MON, LET'S GIT GOING!

GET IN THERE! THE BOSS IS ANXIOUS TA MEET YA!

DON'T SHOVE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

LOOKS LIKE A CYCLONE STRUCK HERE!

CALL FOR A DOCTOR, BETSY, WHILE I SEE IF I CAN BRING THE OLD WOMAN AROUND!

SOON...

I GOT THE DOC ON THE PHONE! HE'LL BE RIGHT HERE!

KIDNAPERS... TOOK MY JOEY... AND... SISSY!

FAST ACTION CALLS FOR A COSTUME CHANGE, AND...

YOU STAY HERE UNTIL THE DOCTOR ARRIVES, BETSY! I'LL TRY TO PICK UP THEIR TRAIL AND LEAVE A SIGN THAT YOU CAN FOLLOW LATER!

RIGHTO, CAP!

THEN...

A TRAIL OF PILLS! I'LL FOLLOW THEM!

ONE TRAIL ENDS... AT THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER!

A PUDDLE OF GAS, EH? HMM! SO, I LOOK FOR A CAR WITH A LEAKY GAS TANK!

SO, NOW TO SEE WHERE *THIS* TRAIL LEADS TO!

SOON...

ANTIQUES

THAT MUST BE THE CAR! THE TRAIL STOPS HERE!

I'LL SOON KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

JOEY! AND THAT MUST BE HIS SISTER! QUITE A COZY LITTLE SET-UP!

CRASH!

CAPTAIN AMERICA! GET HIM!

OUT OF THE WAY! I WANT A CRACK AT YOUR BOSS!

ONE BLOW WITH THIS WAR CLUB WILL FINISH HIM!

...LIKE THIS!

CRACK!

HAH! EVEN THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA IS NO MATCH FOR ME! SCOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR BETSY AND BRING HER IN! SHE MUST BE CLOSE BY. THOSE TWO OPERATE AS A TEAM!

RIGHT, BOSS!

AT THAT MOMENT, BACK AT THE MILTON HOME...

RUSH THIS PRESCRIPTION TO THE DRUG STORE AND HAVE IT FILLED! HER LIFE DEPENDS ON YOUR SPEED!

A FEW SECONDS LATER...

THERE YOU ARE, YOUNG LADY! GLYCEROL TRINITRATE-PURE FORM! BE CAREFUL NOT TO DROP IT!

THANKS, I WON'T!

PRESCRIPTIONS

OUTSIDE...

HEY! C'MERE!

HUH? WHO, ME?

YEAH, YOU, GOLDEN GIRL!

WE BAGGED HER, CHIEF!

AH, *SUCCESS!* THIS IS A HIGH LIGHT IN MY BRILLIANT CAREER OF GRIME! TO ANNIHILATE *CAPTAIN AMERICA* AND *GOLDEN GIRL* IS THE DREAM OF EVERY MASTER CRIMINAL! BUT WHERE THEY FAIL, I ALONE *SUCCEED!*

HERE'S THE PACKAGE THE GAL HAD WITH HER, BOSS!

PUT IT DOWN, YOU FOOL! MUST I BE ANNOYED WITH SUCH TRIFLES? AHEM! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY IRON MAIDEN OF DEATH! OBSERVE THE CRUEL SPIKES THAT WILL IMPALE YOU, CRUSHING YOU IN HER FATAL EMBRACE!

THE SLIGHTEST PRESSURE INSIDE THE MAIDEN RELEASES HIDDEN SPRINGS WHICH SNAP IT SHUT, SPIKING ITS VICTIM TO A BLOODY PULP! IT IS MY INTENTION TO TOSS EACH OF YOU TO HER!

AND SINCE YOU REFUSE TO DIVULGE WHO IS BEHIND THE PLOT TO ROB THAT NECKLACE, *YOU SHALL BE FIRST!*

PSST, CAP... I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING! LISTEN....

NO! STOP!

BZZZZZZ... BZZZZZZ...

LET HER GO!

LISTEN, RAND, WHY DON'T YOU STOP KIDDING YOURSELF ABOUT THAT JUNK-PILE PINCUSHION YOU CALL AN IRON MAIDEN? IT MIGHT POSSIBLY HURT A FRAIL GIRL, BUT HOW ABOUT A FULL GROWN POWERFUL MAN... *LIKE ME?*

OR ARE YOU AFRAID THAT I'LL BEND HER DAINTY LITTLE SPIKES A BIT IF I GO BEFORE THE REST OF THEM?

WHY, YOU...

I INTENDED TO SAVE *YOU* FOR THE *LAST*, BUT I HAVE CHANGED MY PLANS! *YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA, SHALL BE THE FIRST TO DIE!* UNBIND HIS LEGS, MEN!

HOLD STILL, CHUMP!

I HATE TO HAVE TO WRECK YOUR LADY, RAND!

STILL CLINGING TO YOUR HEROIC ROLE TO THE BITTER END, EH, CAPTAIN AMERICA?

YES INDEED, RAND! TO THE...

...BITTER END!

HEY!

WHAT TH-!!

BOOM

RETRIBUTION EXACTS ITS GRIM TOLL!

AIIIIIII!

AIIIIIIII!

SNAP!

YOU GOT RAND, BUT YOU'RE *NOT* TRICKING *US*, WISE GUY!

GREAT WORK, CAP!

NOW TO GET MY BOUND WRISTS IN FRONT OF ME, AND...

LET YOUR KNIFE DO THE REST, DIMWIT!

HEY!

SINCE YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES, *HERE'S A DOUBLEHEADER!*

CRAGG

SORRY YOU HAD TO SIT THIS ONE OUT, BETSY!

HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL ABOUT IT?

BOY! WHAT A SOCK *THAT* WAS!

O.K.! NOW IT'S TIME FOR *YOU* TO *TALK!*

DON'T HIT ME AGAIN! I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

SOON... RAND WAS A CRIMINOLOGIST WHO GOT BUSTED FOR ACCEPTING GRAFT! HE HAD A PLASTIC SURGERY JOB DONE TO CHANGE HIS APPEARANCE AND FORMED HIS OWN GANG TO GET REVENGE ON SOCIETY!

HE LED A GANG OF JEWEL THIEVES, USING THIS PLACE FOR A FRONT! WHEN HE HAD JEWELS TO GET RID OF, HE WOULD HANG THEM IN THE WINDOW FOR THE "FENCES" TO SEE AND BUY! HE SAID THE *BEST* PLACE TO "*HIDE*" ANYTHING WAS IN THE OPEN!

THIS PLACE IS FULL OF LOOT. THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF REWARDS COMING TO YOU!

CAPTAIN AMERICA DOESN'T ACCEPT REWARDS! THEY GO TO JOEY! HE LED US TO RAND AND HIS MEN!

G-GOSH! I JUST REMEMBERED! THAT MEDICINE WAS FOR GRANNY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY IS WITNESSED AT THE MILTON HOME!

GRANNY!

OH, I'M SO HAPPY!

MY BABIES—BACK SAFE! THANK HEAVENS!

GOLDEN GIRL, WHAT DID YOU WHISPER TO CAPTAIN AMERICA BACK IN RAND'S SHOP?

I REMEMBERED MY CHEMISTRY LESSONS! GRANNY'S MEDICINE HAPPENED TO BE GLYCEROL TRINITRATE, USED IN HEART CASES, WHICH IS ALSO NITROGLYCERIN!

THAT BIT OF LEARNING SAVED FOUR LIVES AND RIGHTED A WRONG, JOEY! KNOWLEDGE IS ONE'S MOST PRECIOUS ASSET, SINCE IT IS THE SUM TOTAL OF MAN'S EXPERIENCE!

I'LL NEVER NEGLECT MY STUDIES AGAIN, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

SOME TIME LATER...

GEE, LOOK AT THE LETTERS OFFERING ME SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH COLLEGE AND MEDICAL SCHOOL! NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM BECOMING A DOCTOR NOW!

OH, JOEY! WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR BRILLIANT SCHOLARSHIP THIS SEMESTER, LEE SCHOOL TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN PRESENTING YOU WITH THIS HONOR SCROLL... SUMMA CUM LAUDE!

THANK YOU, MR. ROGERS!

THE END

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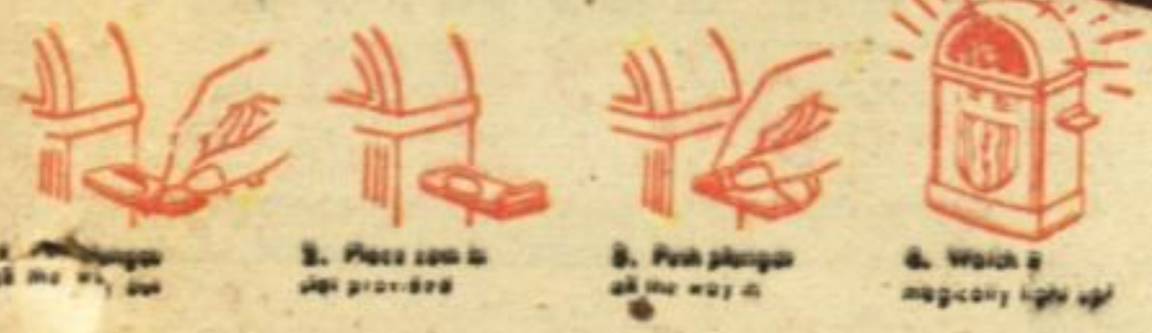

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